

DEWITT HALL'S TRAGIC WAY OF COLLECTING DEBT.

He Tries to Shoot Editor Dunlap
at His Office Door with a
Rusty Little Pistol.

BEATEN IN A DARK HALL.

Whiskey, Bullets and a Broken Head
for a Matter of Four Dollars for
Filling a Lady's Teeth.

Four dollars is not popularly supposed to be an adequate cause for the taking of human life, but that is the motive ascribed to an attempt on the life of Mr. A. P. Dunlap at the close of his day's business on Friday evening. The event was brief, but stirring. It stirred the city as a whole, and it is still stirring. It stirred the city as a whole, and it is still stirring. It stirred the city as a whole, and it is still stirring.

Mr. Dunlap is a little gray old gentleman who has an office in the third or fourth floor of the antiquated building at No. 1102 Broadway, just across the way from the Coleman House. He is editor of the *Stage News*, is agent for several dramatic properties, and transacts business for a number of theatrical people. Colonel Milken, who is in the same line of business, occupies adjoining offices.

About six o'clock on Friday evening Mr. Dunlap was sitting in his office with a couple of old friends talking when a man past the prime of life and several degrees removed from sobriety opened the door and loudly began to demand a settlement of "that claim."

Mr. Dunlap stepped to the door to speak to the man, but before he had spoken a dozen words there was a sharp report and a bullet whizzed past the editor's head.

It was a hairbreadth shot. Fortunately the hallway and office were but dimly lighted, and the bullet, as by him and buried in the wall.

The visitor was about to repeat the shot when Dunlap, who is an old soldier, sprang forward and grasped the revolver just in time to catch the descending hammer on the side of his thumb, cutting a gash in it and making a black and blue spot. There was a brief scuffle, and the pistol was wrested from the hand of its reckless owner.

After thinking the matter over a moment the latter concluded that he had urged his claim sufficiently strong for one evening, and staggered down the stairs, and Mr. Dunlap returned to his office.

"That man is a P. Hall, a dentist, a character, a singer in an opera troupe. He filled some teeth for a lady client of mine who is also a singer and presented a bill for \$4. He gave me \$5 for him, which I paid over to him. She said she would not give him another cent, as the fillings came out and the work was done in a shoddy way. He has been pestering her for some time for that \$4, and to tell the truth, I was going to try and persuade her to make good his claim, and now he gets a bullet through my head for it. I suppose I had been alone and he had killed me!"

After this denunciation Mr. Dunlap went to his room, and he declared that he should do so soon as he got back from his suburban home.

When he reached his office yesterday morning he found a weeping woman, aged with grief and care, awaiting him. She was the wife of Dr. Hall, and that he had come home the night before very drunk and very much frightened and told her what had happened. She said that Mr. Dunlap did not take proceedings against him.

"The disgrace of this thing will kill me, I know it will," she sobbed. "I have suffered years from this man, and I can assure you that he will never trouble you again."

"Well," Mr. Dunlap said kindly, "go home, I won't do anything about it."

He shook hands with the woman and bowed her out. "Did you notice the arms of that woman?" he said to his pretty stenographer. "She is as thin as a match."

"Yes," said the other, "she looks as if trouble had aged her."

Worse than this was.

I called on Mr. Dunlap yesterday and he showed me the pistol which had come so near ending his editorial and dramatic career. It was a rusty little seven chambered revolver, the chamber of which was empty of its cartridge, the other six were loaded.

"An old soldier," he said, nursing his thumb, "and have thirty-two bullets to my credit, but I never had so close a call as that of last night. I wouldn't like to take such chances again."

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Several relatives of the deceased cannot be found, and as they have not been heard of in years are supposed to be dead. They are Eliza Johnson and her husband, a niece and nephew. Miss Johnson about fourteen years ago left home and has not been heard of since.

The nephew, Chapman, in this city nearly forty years ago and has never returned. He was last heard from in 1870, in Melbourne, Australia.

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CUT TO PIECES UNDER "L" ROAD WHEELS

Michael Byrnes, a Track Repairer,
Instantly Killed by the Engine
of an Empty Train.

HE BECAME CONFUSED.

When His Body Was Picked up a Cigar
Box, Nail Keg and Soap Box
Served as Coffins.

In the tower of the yard of the elevated road at 14th street and Ninth avenue there yesterday afternoon the body of Michael Byrnes, a carpenter, thirty-two years of age.

The poor fellow's corpse had been shockingly mutilated, and the fragments were contained in a cigar box, a nail keg and a soap box, which were placed on the west side of the tower, near a window, through which morbidly curious persons were constantly peering.

The accident which resulted in the death of young Byrnes occurred shortly before noon, but before the eyes of a number of employees of the "L" road. Byrnes had been employed by the "L" road for some years. At the time when he met his death he was at work with five other men in repairing the track at a point nearly midway between 14th and 14th street.

The work consisted principally in laying side rails and ties. The latter were being put in position over the girders and under the rails. The men had been at work all the morning and had been kept busy in keeping out of the way of the trains, which were passing by them on both the uptown and the downtown tracks.

HOW IT HAPPENED.

Yesterday was pay day with the men employed by the road and all hands were in a particularly good humor. Byrnes himself, always a good natured fellow, was particularly jolly and gayly bantered his fellow workmen.

Within half an hour of noon the carpenters were busy engaged in getting the ties in place when a train was seen approaching them on the downtown track. All the men working on that side of the elevated structure stood back, and the train passed by them without stopping.

At the point mentioned there are three tracks, and at the center of the three there is a switch running from the track to the yard, on the east side of the station at 14th street.

While the fellows retreated to the space between the uptown and the middle track, Byrnes stepped still further back and stood between the rails of the center track. At that very moment the engine of the train came down the track, and moderate headway from 14th street, for the purpose of being yarded at the 14th street yard.

When Byrnes stepped back out of the way of the downtown train another train had just passed on the uptown track, and the engine of the train stepped still further back and stood between the rails of the center track. At that very moment the engine of the train came down the track, and moderate headway from 14th street, for the purpose of being yarded at the 14th street yard.

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He followed into the hall and there the assassin occurred.

Mr. Shannon's eye is still badly discolored as a result of the blow which he had received and which was broken by his nose. His ankle too was strained as he fell.

Mr. Combs has been given \$500 bail for his appearance at the Police Court next Wednesday for examination.

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